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The cause of death was assigned to chronic nephritis, and is duly noted in the accompanying copy of mortuary returns from the 8th to the 10th instant inclusive.

NICARAGUA.

Bluefields.—Act. Asst. Surg. D. W. Goodman reports, June 10, as follows: I have the honor to report that the health conditions of Bluefields and vicinity continue good and satisfactory, there being here no contagious nor infectious diseases, and very little sickness of any kind.

BRAZIL.

Sanitary reports from Rio de Janeiro.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *May 8, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official reports for the last two weeks ended April 21 and 28, respectively:

During the week ended April 21 there were 310 deaths from all causes, a decrease of 9, as compared with the foregoing week; 12 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 8; 24 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 2; 6 deaths from smallpox, a decrease of 3; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; no death from diphtheria, a decrease of 2; 7 deaths from beriberi, an increase of 4, and 46 deaths from tuberculosis, a decrease of 5.

During the week ended April 28 there were 337 deaths from all causes, an increase of 27, as compared with the foregoing week; 9 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, a decrease of 3; 13 deaths from yellow fever, a decrease of 11; 8 deaths from smallpox, an increase of 2; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; 5 deaths from beriberi, a decrease of 2, and 57 deaths from tuberculosis, an increase of 11.

Since last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: April 29, steamship *Cyprian Prince*, British, for New York. May 2, steamship *Handel*, British, for New Orleans; bark *Else*, German, for New Orleans. May 3, steamship *Hévelius*, Belgian, for New York. May 5, steamship *Dalecarlia*, German, for New York. May 6, bark *Verdandi*, Russian, for Sabine Pass.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,
U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

RIO DE JANEIRO, *May 17, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit to you the official report for the week ended May 5.

There were 303 deaths from all causes, a decrease of 34, as compared with the foregoing week; 13 deaths from *accessio pernicioso*, an increase of 4; 22 deaths from yellow fever, an increase of 9; 5 deaths from smallpox, a decrease of 3; 2 deaths from typhoid fever, the same as before; 3 deaths from beriberi, a decrease of 2, and 51 deaths from tuberculosis, a decrease of 6.

INFORMATION.

Cooler weather has compensated for the hot days through which we have passed during the last few months. Yet the general state of health, which, however, was not at any time really unfavorable, shows

very little change. The number of deaths from yellow fever has been, during the last three weeks 24, 13, and 22, from *accessio pernicioso* 12, 9, and 13. Smallpox prevails always to an unusual degree. There were reported during the last four weeks 6, 8, 5, and 11 deaths from that disease.

The spread of yellow fever, probably originating in Rio de Janeiro, has been observed in Bahia, Parana (2 cases), in different places in Parahyba do Sul (few cases), and also in Buenos Ayres. It seems that the reports in regard to Buenos Ayres have been very much exaggerated.

QUARANTINE STATIONS.

In his message at the opening of Congress, President Campos Salles said: "In 1895 the Government resolved to order the speedy establishment of quarantine stations at Pernambuco and at Para and gave official notification of this resolution to the representatives of foreign nations here accredited. The Government thus acted in view of the recognized expediency of relieving ships, bound for northern ports of the burdensome obligation in epidemic times of going into quarantine at Ilha Grande, which causes them enormous loss of time and money. Beside the injury thereby caused to national commerce, there must be considered the general loss to the country, resulting in a consequent reduction in communication between our ports. The necessity of closing the quarantine station at Tamandare has produced serious trouble that now may be removed. The Government consequently has asked Congress for the appropriation that is absolutely and pressingly required.

STATISTICS.

The report of the minister of justice and interior contains some interesting statements of sanitary questions. In this document the total number of deaths at Rio de Janeiro during the year 1898 is stated to be 17,784, according to the official reports of the authorities (pretorias), and that of the births, 17,987, against 15,835 and 15,080, which I have mentioned in my annual report, based on information furnished by the demographic department. This once more shows that under the circumstances which here prevail, it is not possible to accept such numerical statistics as absolutely correct. In spite of the best intentions, it has evidently not been possible to obtain all the necessary information.

The general statistics of the *Assistencia Medico-legal* of the states, which takes charge of matters relating to lunatics, were during the year 1898, as follows:

	At the asylum.	In the colony of the Ilha de Governador.
	<i>Persons.</i>	<i>Men.</i>
There were on December 31, 1897.....	678	268
Admitted during 1898.....	1,466	51
Died.....	258	73
Cured.....	348	11
Licensed.....	105	1
Escaped.....	2	1

In the fire brigade there occurred during the year 1898 only 5 deaths, which represents a mortality of 0.93 per cent. The causes of deaths were tuberculosis in 3 instances, syncope cardiaca and nephritis interstitialis in 1 instance each.

In the police brigade there occurred 47 deaths, that is, 2.65 per cent of mortality. Malarial fevers have been prevailing. Smallpox occurred in 13 cases, much less than in the year before, in consequence of the revaccination. Tuberculosis has been observed on a large scale.

STRANGERS HOSPITAL.

From the report of the Strangers Hospital for the year 1897-98 I take the following statements. It may be mentioned that the Strangers Hospital is a private institution, erected by the British and Americans, and serves for patients in good circumstances. One hundred and two patients were under treatment. Nationality of patients admitted was: British, 59; German, 12; French, 7; Portuguese, 6; North American, 4; Brazilian, 4; Italian, 3; Norwegian, 2; Danish, 2; Austrian, 1; Dutch, 1, and Spanish, 1. Death occurred in 19 cases. The principal diseases have been malarial fever in 22 cases, and yellow fever in 32 cases, of which 14 were fatal, including 5 cases admitted with anuria.

BILLS OF HEALTH.

Since my last report the following-named ships have been inspected and received bills of health from this office: May 15, steamship *Ivydere*, British, for New York; bark *Baltimore*, American, for Baltimore. May 17, bark *Robert S. Besnard*, British, for Ship Island.

Respectfully, yours,

W. HAVELBURG, M. D.,

Sanitary Inspector, U. S. M. H. S.

The SUPERVISING SURGEON-GENERAL,

U. S. Marine-Hospital Service.

CHINA.

Plague in Amoy.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, D. C., June 16, 1899.

SIR: By direction of the Secretary of State, I have the honor to inform you that the following telegram, dated to-day, has been received from our consul at Amoy, China—"Secretary of State, Washington—Plague—Johnson."

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. W. CRIDLER,

Third Assistant Secretary.

The honorable the SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

CUBA.

Sanitary report from Cienfuegos.

CIENFUEGOS, CUBA, *June 13, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to report as follows: During the week ended June 10, 27 deaths were reported in the city, of which 10 were from intestinal diseases, 7 from malaria, and 1 from meningitis. The rains continue with some regularity, the days are cool except in the middle hours of the day, and altogether the sanitary outlook is good. The